



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2018

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Australian Medical Association Queensland**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.36 pm): I acknowledge the many hardworking doctors, the very many good and loyal members of the Australian Medical Association Queensland, as well as many current and former staff in the AMAQ secretariat and a number of former presidents and others I have served with. I would like to thank AMA Queensland President, Dr Bill Boyd, for awarding me the president's award during his current 2017-18 AMA Queensland presidential term. I thank Bill for recognising me for my over 10 years of service to AMA Queensland in various professional capacities including as a former president, former branch councillor and former board member. I table some articles and a copy of the award certificate and photo for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs, documents and articles regarding the presentation of a President's award to the member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan MP, by the Australian Medical Association [\[661\]](#).

This brave and loyal presidential decision is not without controversy given the public hospital doctors dispute of 2014 and the inaccurate perception, or view by some, that I, as the then AMA Queensland president in 2013-14, had a conflict of interest in industrial negotiations given my involvement with the Liberal National Party. However, importantly, it must be remembered that this had been a declared and known conflict of interest when becoming president-elect and also president of the association. In fact, I had formally written to the then president of the LNP, Mr Bruce McIver, prior to taking up the president's role requesting that my LNP membership be suspended for the duration of my term as AMA president. I table correspondence with respect to this.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence, dated 18 March 2013, from Dr Christian Rowan to Mr Bruce McIver seeking to suspend his LNP membership for 12 months from 1 June 2013 to 25 June 2014 [\[662\]](#).

I also table copies of emails and documents when I first became president-elect with respect to declaring a potential conflict of interest to the CEO, Jane Schmitt, and the organisation prior to becoming president the following year.

*Tabled paper:* Emails, dated 24 May and 20 June 2012, from Dr Christian Rowan and conflict of interest disclosure forms dated 20 June 2012 [\[663\]](#).

What I have to bring to the attention of the House today, our great democratic institution here in Queensland, is the ongoing extraordinary organisational attacks on the democratic powers and decision-making ability of another democratically elected AMA Queensland president. In fact, the current CEO, Jane Schmitt, and others have a track record of attacking and undermining the authority of a number of AMA Queensland presidents and duly elected other officials. I table correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence regarding Dr Christian Rowan in his capacity as President of the Australian Medical Association [\[666\]](#).

The recent conduct of Labor apparatchik AMA Queensland CEO, Jane Schmitt, will go down in the history of the organisation as one of the greatest displays and acts of vitriol, bile, ostensible bias, vendetta and political payback. On learning of the current president's intent to award me the president's

award and on my receipt of this award from the current and well-respected AMA Queensland President, Dr Bill Boyd, the current Chief Executive Officer of AMA Queensland, Jane Schmitt, then took extraordinary unprecedented steps to try to prevent the award being given because of her own conflicted political ideology, union links, distorted philosophical views and corrupted conflict in not being able to deliver balanced public policy with respect to industrial matters—important balanced public policy for the benefit of both doctors and, even more importantly, patients and their clinical outcomes. However, the president's award had already been awarded prior to her actions.

Recent actions of the CEO, following a briefing to the also conflicted board chair, then led to the ramming through of board resolutions without all of the required information, denying natural justice, denying procedural fairness and excluding the current president from written communications by him to me with respect to abolishing a longstanding organisational award, of which many AMA members have been a recipient, including former AMA Queensland president and former VMO Committee chair, Dr Ross Cartmill, who has been a recipient of this award. I acknowledge Ross in the gallery today. The CEO and board chair allegedly undertook this action under the biased and inaccurate 'guise' of organisational risk.

In part this saga also stems from the historical actions and duplicity of Labor's Dr Chris Davis, including Dr Davis's undermining of his then colleague the former health minister, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg. I table articles.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 30 July 2014, titled 'What political turncoat really thinks of his part, Dishonest, Shameful, Self-serving, Incompetent, Sign me up' [\[665\]](#).

This undermining was done as a part of an unholy alliance with AMA Queensland's CEO and representatives of the ASMOF union as well as others, including a number of Labor members and now Palaszczuk Labor ministers who sit in this chamber today. Dr Davis's breach of cabinet solidarity and his subsequent sacking—and also Dr Davis's previous attack and ambush with other cronies—on well-respected former CEO Kerry Gallagher has not been forgotten.

Politics has a long memory. Given that Dr Davis, the AMA's CEO, the Together union and ASMOF collectively have all elected the socialist Palaszczuk Labor government, it can be said that all have contributed to untold misery for patients, health professionals, farmers, families, businesses as well as community and faith based organisations at large. I note that Dr Davis was awarded the Dr Bruce Shepherd Medal for his contribution as an elected representative to undermining his own then health minister for breaching cabinet solidarity, resigning from the LNP, resigning from parliament and for joining the Labor Party.

In concluding, I thank President Bill Boyd for the award, particularly given the annual award has now been reportedly abolished into the future, despite it having a long history within the organisation. I also take the opportunity to acknowledge the many professional colleagues who have supported me, and I table some examples.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence and a media article regarding decisions and actions of the Australian Medical Association [\[664\]](#).

Unfortunately, I choose not to name many others, particularly given a number serve in elected AMA positions, as I have real concerns for reprisals against them with respect to AMA organisational, political and/or professional bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Finally, any potential organisational risk with respect to this matter has been created by the CEO and chair by not handling a sensitive and complex matter with greater due diligence, natural justice, procedural fairness, independence and acknowledgement by both of them of their own conflict of interest on the matter. In my maiden speech I referenced hoping not to have to take such action. It provides me no joy, solace or comfort in having to make this speech, although the irony of being able to exercise freedom of speech as a democratically elected representative in this great democratic institution is not lost on me. I hear the CEO's contract will not be renewed but her immediate position and that of others is untenable.

*(Time expired)*